to 70% ethanol. Indirect alkaline phosphatase—antialkaline phosphatase immunoperoxidase staining was performed to detect viral nucleoprotein. The ducks (28.9%) had Newcastle disease viral nucleoproteins in their tissues. The viral nucleoproteins were found in large mononuclear cells of cecal tonsils and tubular epithelial cells in kidneys of infected ducks. The viral antigens were located in the cytoplasm and nucleolus of the respective cells. Liver, lungs, spleen and brain of all the infected ducks did not have detectable viral antigens. The number of ducks with viral antigen increased with duration of infection from 22.2%, 16.7%, 33.3% and 41.7% on days 1, 4, 8 and 14 post inoculation, respectively (P<0.05). Viral antigen intensity in cecal tonsil tissue sections was 4, 5, and > 5 cells in 15.4%, 53.8% and 30.8%, respectively of the infected ducks. In the kidneys, more than 5 positive cells were recorded. Thus, in Newcastle disease virus carrier ducks, the kidneys and cecal tonsils need to be sampled for virus isolation besides other tissues.

VARIOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF OVARIAN CARCINOMA AND MAREK’S DISEASE/LEUKOSIS COMPLEX IN CHICKENS: CASE REPORTS

*Bebora L.C.¹, Njagi L.W.¹, Mbuthia P.G.¹ and Kariuki D.I.²

¹Dept. Vet. Pathology, Microbiology and Parasitology ²Dept. Clinical Studies, P.O. Box 29053-00625, Nairobi

Like any other diseases of poultry, tumours are important to poultry keepers. This is because farmers keep poultry mainly for commercial purposes and are affected by any condition that would cause death of the chickens or reduce their productivity. There are various tumours that affect chickens, mostly the older ones. This is a report of two manifestations of ovarian carcinoma and two extraordinary manifestations of Marek’s disease/Leukosis complex. Possible impacts on poultry production are discussed.

Email lilybebora@yahoo.com

INVESTIGATION OF CAUSES OF EGG LOSSES IN OSTRICH PRODUCTION IN KENYA

*Chemis V.J., Kanyari P.W.N., Ngatia, T.A., Mbaabu P. M.

University of Nairobi, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, P.O. BOX 29053, KABETE, Kenya

Commercial ostrich farming is rapidly becoming a desirable alternative source of profitable meat production among small holder farmers in Kenya. However ostrich farming is severely constrained by high egg losses (up to 60% in Kenya). The overall aim of the study was to establish the possible causes of egg losses in ostrich production in Kenya. The study was carried out in Maasai Ostrich Farm (MOF) in Kitengela. It involved examining the incubation parameters and egg weight losses during incubation. Optimum hygienic conditions were maintained within the incubation and hatchery facility at MOF. The average percentage egg weight loss calculated was 8.2%. An automated incubator was always set at 36°C and 30% temperature and relative humidity, respectively. The low egg weight loss recorded in this study was probably due to high chick mortality resulting from hypoxia. Trained personnel and routine recordings of egg weights during incubation were recommended in keeping track of progressive egg weight loss at the farm. Optimal levels of interaction between factors that will increase egg weight loss and hence improve hatchability rates need to be investigated.

vchemis@yahoo.com.

SESSION 10

CAN OBEYING PROFESSIONAL ETHICS GUARANTEE EMPLOYMENT TO VETERINarians?

Christopher Wanga

Veterinary professionals and para-professionals trained to degree, diploma and certificate levels have increasingly found it difficult to obtain gainful employment in the public and private sectors for the past two decades due to a variety of factors. The Government adopted Structural Adjustment Programmes fronted by our development partners which led to the freezing of direct employment of veterinary technical staff, a challenge that led to the
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FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

THEME:

ANIMAL-HUMAN INTERACTION

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